



Come, Worship the Lord, Our God

February 18, 2018

11:00am

First Sunday in Lent DRAWN INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

Welcome and Greeting

(Please complete Prayer Concerns)

Gathering Prayer:

God of ancient covenants, your steadfast love and faithfulness are still new every morning. We thank you that we can begin this day in the confidence of your abiding love and unending mercy. Help us to treat others with love and mercy in our encounters today. When we disappoint or are discordant, help us to show love to others. Open our eyes to the places, people, and circumstances in which your kingdom has come near. We pray in the name of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Prelude: "I Must Tell Jesus"

(Southbridge)

Call to Worship:

From water to wilderness:

God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

On stone and in hearts:

God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

From the ancestor of nations to the Son lifted up:

God's covenant continues; God's kingdom comes near.

We follow Jesus on the Lenten path,

for where he is, we would be also.

***Opening Song of Praise:** "Blessed Be Your Name"

(Redman)

(Hearts 4 Worship)

(Prayer Concerns collected)

AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE

*Call to Confession:

God's bow has been hung in the clouds—a unilateral disarmament in spite of our sin. God remains faithful to the covenant of steadfast love, even when we are unfaithful. Without fear, then, we confess our sins.

***Prayer of Confession:**

Unison

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

**Time of Silent Prayer*

***Declaration of Forgiveness:**

As Noah and his family were brought safely through the flood onto dry ground, so in baptismal waters we are brought from death into new life in Christ. Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, forgives us and reconciles us and all things in heaven and on earth. Thanks be to God!

***Gloria Patri:** "Glory Be To The Father"

#579

***Our Faithful Response:** "Jesus, Tempted in the Desert"

#2105

Time with Young Disciples

Anthem: "Rescue"

(Anderson)

(Hearts 4 Worship)

LISTENING IN GOD'S PRESENCE**Prayer for Illumination****Scripture Lessons:**

Genesis 9:8-17

8 Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 9 "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, 10 and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. 11 I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." 12 God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I

make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: 13 I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. 14 When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, 15 I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16 When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." 17 God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

Mark 1:9-15

9 About that time, Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and John baptized him in the Jordan River. 10 While he was coming up out of the water, Jesus saw heaven splitting open and the Spirit, like a dove, coming down on him. 11 And there was a voice from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I dearly love; in you I find happiness." 12 At once the Spirit forced Jesus out into the wilderness. 13 He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among the wild animals, and the angels took care of him. 14 After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, 15 saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!"

Sermon: "A Change of Heart"

The Rev. Leslie Latham

RESPONDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE

***Affirmation of Faith**

"The Earth. . . is a sparkling blue and white jewel. . . laced with slowly swirling veils of white. . . like a small pearl in a thick sea of black mystery." (*Edgar Mitchell, US Astronaut*)

"All creation is a song of praise to God." (*Hildegard of Bingen, Mystic*)

"O moving force of Wisdom, you encircle the wheel of the cosmos; you encompass all that is, all that has life, in one vast circle." (*Hildegard of Bingen*)

"All creation is a song of praise to God."

"It could be that God has not absconded but spread, as our vision and understanding of the universe have spread, to a fabric of spirit and sense so grand and subtle, powerful in a new way, that we can only feel blindly of its hem." (*Annie Dillard, writer*)

"All creation is a song of praise to God."

"... Stardust is not just fairy-tale magic; it is what we are really made of. . ."

(Elisabet Sahtouris, Ecologist)

"All creation is a song of praise to God."

"Great Spirit, ... give me the strength to walk the soft earth, a relative to all that is! ... all over the earth the faces of living things are all alike... This is my prayer; hear me!"

(Black Elk, Oglala Sioux)

"All creation is a song of praise to God."

"There is not anything new to be born. It has been within you from the beginningless beginning. It has only to be awakened, to become aware of itself in you." *(Zen saying)*

"All creation is a song of praise to God."

"... For in God we live and move and have our being." *(Acts 17:28)*

"All creation is a song of praise to God."

"...When you stand in the presence of the moon, you become a new creation. . . The elementary particles of your body have absorbed an influence and in that sense they—and you—are brand spanking new, a human being resonating everywhere with moonlight." *(Brian Swimme, physicist)*

"All creation is a song of praise to God."

"We shall not cease from exploration/ And the end of all our exploring/ Will be to arrive where we started/ And know the place for the first time." *(T. S. Eliot, poet)*

"All creation is a song of praise to God."

***Hymn:** "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

#81

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer (ecumenical version)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

Invitation To The Offering

Because we believe that in Jesus Christ, God's time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God has come near, we respond in tangible ways. By doing acts of justice and compassion and by sharing our resources, we bear witness to the good news of the gospel. The offering is received in gratitude to God.

Offertory: "My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

(Mason)

***Doxology:**

Praise God who comes to seek the lost.

Praise God who comes to heal and mend.

Praise God who comes to pay the cost.

Praise Father, Son and Holy Friend.

***Prayer of Dedication:**

You call us in many ways, O God, for many tasks. In thankfulness for all your gifts to us of life, breath, love, and grace, we respond:

Here we are, Loving God. Use us in your world. Amen.

ABIDING IN GOD'S PRESENCE IN THE WORLD

***Hymn of Sending:** "God of the Sparrow"

#272

***Benediction**

***Postlude:** "What Wondrous Love!"

(Jordan)

* Those who are able, please stand

WORSHIP AIDS:

Large Print Bulletins, Hymnals & Hearing Devices – available from ushers.

Children's Sanctuary - at the rear of the church

Baby Changing Tables - in both rest rooms of Church School Building.

Deacon's Prayer Chain - To activate Prayer Chain call Judy in the church office @ 692-1319.

New Prayer Concerns or Joys

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Prayer Concerns or Joys Last Week: Family of Bill Stein (Diane Hoener's father); Rebecca Barry & Family; Linda H.; and Scott Hagle.

Continuing Prayers: Alvin Marohn; Jessica Haacker; Gerry Tyrrell; Father Michael Ubeler; Scott Greenawalt; Sid Tyrrell; Irving & Alice Hils; Holly Mazurek; Marge Klinger; Betty Kolnacki; Ruth Gebera; Aron; Wilma Bender; Wally Frech; Rosemary Taber; Jack Greenawalt; Willie Day; Mike Crowell; Larry Rayner; Jackie Rexford; Gail Schurr; Michael Grant; Paul Rayner; Anthony Dragone; Adehlia Kowsky; Peggy Hess; Russ McClure; Mike Klinger; Bob Erisman

Prayers and caring for our homebound: Lillian Manning; Marge Klinger; Georgia Anson; Fay Tag; Doris Carlson; J. Robert Weber; Ann Thorpe; Ruth Weber

*Because God's love is for all - everyone is always welcome.
We pray that God may bless you with peace, inspiration, and strength. We are a community, seeking to learn what it means to follow Jesus. No matter what you may be going through, no matter where you may be on your faith journey – you are most welcome here! If you would like more information, please call Judy in the church office @ 692-1319*

LITURGIST: Lynn Weber

GREETERS: Jane Crossan and Ruth Gebera

USHERS: Team 2

STEPHEN MINISTERS: are always available to provide confidential support in times of need. Simply call Janet Haacker @ 694-4290.

REMINDER: Please call Pastor Leslie @ 490-0420 or Judy in the office @ 692-1319 if you or a loved one are ill, hospitalized or in need of a visit.

The flowers on the Communion Table are to the Glory of God and in memory of Elizabeth Crossan on the anniversary of her birthday on February 20th, given by her daughter, Jane Crossan.

Service of Blessing and Healing: Wednesday, February 21 @ 6:30pm at First Presbyterian Church 149 Broad Street, Tonawanda, will hold an evening service devoted to healing and wholeness, which will include communion. This is a "come as you are" service, open and welcoming to all who seek wholeness for their lives, Presbyterian or otherwise. Please join us in the sanctuary.

Morning Prayers and Communion: A short worship will be held each Sunday morning at 8:30am in the Parlor during Lent – Feb 18, Feb 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, and March 25.

Soup and Study Night: Starting on Wednesday, February 21, there will be a Soup and Study time in the parlor every Wednesday during Lent beginning at 6:00pm. Sign-up in the Narthex to bring a soup or bread to share and plan to come for fellowship and Lenten study. These sessions will meet – February 21, February 28, March 7, March 14, and March 21.

Church Women United World Day of Prayer Celebration: Join us right here at First Pres on March 2 at 1:00pm. The topic is "All God's Creation is Very Good!" A program caring for population of the country of Suriname in South America. See Donna Blinston for details/questions.

Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, March 4, right after worship. Please mark your calendars.

Deacons Tonawanda School Project: Would you like to help with this Mission Project? The Deacons will be collecting various clothing items for children in the Tonawanda School District. More details will be available soon.

Memorial Easter Flowers: The Deacons will be selling assorted Easter Plants before and after worship on March 11 and March 18. More details to follow.

February 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
18 Lenten/Communion Worship 8:30a H4W Warm-up 9a Sunday School 9:30a Worship 11a Ladies' Choir Rehearsal 12:15p	19 AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p	20 Adult Bible Study 7p	21 Soup & Study 6p Healing Service 6:30p	22 AA 9a Yoga 6:30p Hardcore 30 Fitness Class 6:30p Choir Rehearsal 7:30p	23 UFO 7P	24
25 Lenten/Communion Worship 8:30a Sunday School 9:30a Ladies' Choir Warm-up 10:30a Worship 11a	26 AA 9a Girl Scouts 6p TOPS 6:30p	27 Adult Bible Study 7p	28 Soup & Study 6p	Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, March 4 after worship MARK YOUR CALENDARS		